

Abstract of the Disclosure

Methods and apparatus are provided for
5 removing emboli during an angioplasty, stenting or
surgical procedure comprising a catheter having an
occlusion element, an aspiration lumen, and a blood
outlet port in communication with the lumen, a guide
wire having a balloon, a venous return catheter with a
10 blood inlet port, and tubing that couples the blood
outlet port to the blood inlet port. Apparatus is also
provided for occluding the external carotid artery to
prevent reversal of flow into the internal carotid
artery. The pressure differential between the artery
15 and the vein provides reverse flow through the artery,
thereby flushing emboli. A blood filter may optionally
be included in-line with the tubing to filter emboli
from blood reperfused into the patient.

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